

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for ascertaining resource requirements of a print job ~~sent to a printer~~ via a printer driver, the method including:

creating a document of the print job with the print driver and reading the print job into memory directly from the print driver;

formatting the document in the memory into a print format consistent with a layout of the document on print media, the formatted document having a document area;

overlaying a sample window over a single portion of the formatted document in the memory, the window having a window area smaller than the document area;

analyzing the single portion ~~of the formatted document overlayed by the sample window~~ to determine consumable resource requirements of the portion; and

ascertaining the resource requirements of the print job based on the resource requirements of the single portion prior to sending the print job to a printer.

2. (Previously presented) The invention of Claim 1 wherein the document includes an image.

3. (Previously presented) The invention of Claim 1 wherein the memory is a computer readable buffer.

4.-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The invention of Claim 1 wherein the step of analyzing includes

performing a Raster Image Processing analysis on the single portion of the formatted document within the sample window to determine window coverage.

7. (Currently amended) The invention of Claim 6 wherein the document area is defined by a first plurality of dots in a row dimension and a second plurality of dots in a column dimension, wherein the window area is defined by a third plurality of dots in the row dimension and a fourth plurality of dots in the column dimension, the third plurality less than the first plurality, and the fourth plurality less than the second plurality, and wherein the step of ascertaining the resource requirements includes multiplying the window coverage by a factor related to a size of the window area to determine the page coverage of the document.

8. (Previously presented) The invention of Claim 7 wherein the step of ascertaining the resource requirements includes multiplying the page coverage by a number of pages in the print job to determine job requirements.

9. (Original) The invention of Claim 8 including the step of comparing the resource requirements of the task to data relating to an availability of the resources.

10. (Original) The invention of Claim 9 further including the step of executing the task if sufficient resources are available.

11. (Original) The invention of Claim 10 further including the step of providing a message if sufficient resources are not available.

12. (Original) The invention of Claim 11 further including the step of securing additional resources if sufficient resources are not available.

13. (Currently amended) A method for ascertaining resource requirements of a print job ~~sent to a printer~~ via a print driver, the method including:

creating a document of the print job with the print driver and reading the print job into memory directly from the print driver;

overlaying a sample window over a single portion of the document;

performing a low resolution level analysis of only the single portion of the formatted document overlaiyed by the sample window to determine consumable resource requirements of the overlaiyed portion;

extrapolating the resource requirements of the single overlaiyed portion to estimate consumable resource requirements of the entire print job; and

comparing the estimated resource requirements of the print job to data relating to an availability of the resource and providing an output with response thereto prior to sending the print job to a printer.

14. (Original) The invention of Claim 13 wherein the low resolution level analysis is performed at fifty dots per square inch.

15. (Previously presented) The invention of Claim 13 further including the step of providing actual resource requirements of the print job.

16. (Previously presented) The invention of Claim 15 further including the step of comparing the actual resource requirements to the estimated resource requirements and generating correction data in response thereto.

17. (Previously presented) The invention of Claim 16 further including the step of adjusting the low resolution level analysis in response to the correction data.

18. (Previously presented) The invention of Claim 17 wherein the print job includes printing an image on a document.

19. (Previously presented) The invention of Claim 18 wherein the print job includes printing plural images on plural documents.

20. (Original) The invention of Claim 19 wherein the images include text.

21. (Currently amended) The invention of Claim 13 wherein the performing a low resolution level analysis includes performing a Raster Image Processing analysis on the single portion of the formatted document overlaid by the sample window.

22. (Previously presented) The invention of Claim 13 including printing the print job if sufficient resources are available.

23. (Previously presented) The invention of Claim 13 further including the step of providing a message if sufficient resources are not available.

24. (Previously presented) The invention of Claim 13 further including the step of securing additional resources if sufficient resources are not available.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) A program stored on a computer readable medium for ascertaining resource requirements of a print job received by a print driver including:

code for creating a document of the print job with the print driver and reading the print job into memory directly from the print driver;

code for formatting the document in the memory into a print format consistent with a layout of the document on print media, the formatted document having a document area;

code for overlaying a sample window over a single portion of the formatted document in the memory, the window having a window area smaller than the document area;

code for analyzing the single portion of the formatted document overlayed by the sample window to determine consumable resource requirements of the portion; and

code for ascertaining the resource requirements of the print job based on the resource requirements of the single portion prior to sending the print job to a printer.

27. (Previously presented) The invention of Claim 26 wherein the document includes an image.

28. (Previously presented) The invention of Claim 26 including code for reading a file containing the document into a buffer.

29. (Previously presented) The invention of Claim 26 wherein the memory is a computer readable buffer.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) The invention of Claim 26 wherein the code for analyzing includes code for performing a Raster Image Processing analysis on the single portion of the formatted document within the sample window to determine window coverage.

32. (Currently amended) The invention of Claim 31 wherein the document area is defined by a first plurality of dots in a row dimension and a second plurality of dots in a column dimension, wherein the window area is defined by a third plurality of dots in the row dimension

and a fourth plurality of dots in the column dimension, the third plurality less than the first plurality, and the fourth plurality less than the second plurality, and wherein the code for ascertaining the resource requirements includes code for multiplying the window coverage by a factor related to a size of the window area to determine the page coverage of the document.

33. (Previously presented) The invention of Claim 32 wherein the code for ascertaining the resource requirements includes code for multiplying the page coverage by a number of pages in the print job to determine job requirements.

34. (Currently amended) A program stored on a computer readable medium for ascertaining resource requirements of a print job ~~sent to a printer via~~received by a print driver including:

code for creating a document of the print job with the print driver and reading the print job into memory directly from the print driver;

code for overlaying a sample window over a single portion of the document;

code for performing a low resolution level analysis of only the single portion of the formatted document overlaiyed by the sample window to determine consumable resource requirements of the overlaiyed portion;

code for extrapolating the resource requirements of the single overlaiyed portion to estimate consumable resource requirements of the entire print job; and

code for comparing the estimated resource requirements of the print job to data relating to an availability of the resource and providing an output with response thereto prior to sending the print job to a printer.

35. (Previously presented) The invention of Claim 34 further including code for providing actual resource requirements of the print job.

36. (Previously presented) The invention of Claim 35 further including code for comparing the actual resource requirements to the estimated resource requirements and generating correction data in response thereto.

37. (Previously presented) The invention of Claim 36 further including code for adjusting the low resolution level analysis in response to the correction data.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the formatting includes formatting the document at a print resolution, and wherein the analyzing is performed at the print resolution.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the formatting includes formatting the document at a print resolution, and wherein the analyzing is performed at a different resolution lower than the print resolution.

41. (Previously presented) The program of claim 26, wherein the code for formatting includes code for formatting the document at a print resolution, and wherein the code for analyzing includes code for analyzing the portion of the formatted print document at the print resolution.

42. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the code for formatting includes code for formatting the document at a print resolution, and wherein the code for analyzing includes code for analyzing the single overlaid portion of the formatted print document at a different resolution lower than the print resolution.

43. (New) The method of claim 1, comprising:  
sending the print job to the printer after the ascertaining.

44. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the document area is defined by a first plurality of dots in a row dimension and a second plurality of dots in a column dimension, and wherein the window area is defined by a third plurality of dots in the row dimension and a fourth plurality of dots in the column dimension, the third plurality less than the first plurality, and the fourth plurality less than the second plurality.

45. (New) The invention of claim 44, wherein the step of ascertaining the resource requirements includes multiplying the window coverage by a factor related to a size of the window area to determine the page coverage of the document.